

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
EUR-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /074 W
-----124396 131021Z /16

O P 131003Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9354
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 06677

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, LE, SY
SUBJ: IRANIAN QUERY ON LEBANON

1. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY POLCOUNS, WAS CALLED IN TO MFA JULY 13 FOR URGENT QUERY REGARDING LEBANON. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIA AND AFRICA SANANDAJI TOLD CHARGE GOI HAS RECEIVED TWO MESSAGES FORM CHAMOUN THROUGH EMISSARY VICTOR MOUSSA IN BEIRUT. SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGES WAS THAT SYRIA HAS DECIDED "ANNEX" THE LEBANON. SYRIANS HAVE DECIDED CRUSH CHRISTIAN FORCES AND THEN SET UP A PUPPET GOVERNMENT. SINCE THIS GOVERNMENT BOUND TO BE SOVIET ORIENTED IT WILL PRESENT ADDITIONAL THREAT TO CONSERVATIVE REGIMES IN THE AREA. CHAMOUN REQUESTED IRANIAN ASSISTANCE. GOI IS ASKING USG MOST CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION, IN PARTICULAR OF CHAMOUN'S CHARGE. SECONDLY, GOI WONDERS HOW WE WOULD INTERPRET MURDER OF FRANGIE'S SON. GOI'S TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT IS THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS A TARGET BECAUSE HE WAS RIFAAT ASAD'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND CHRISTIANS WANTED TO SPIKE GROWING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN FRANGIE AND SYRIA.

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2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPE AND AMERICAS ESHRAGHI RESPONDED TO EARLIER APPROACH BASED ON STATE 172481. HE SAID EVEN BEFORE WE MADE THIS APPROACH, GOI HAD UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS ON ALL THREE POINTS, I.E. A) ENCOURAGEMENT TO SARKIS TO STAY ON, B) SUPPORT OF PERMANENT CEASEFIRE, AND C) APPROACH TO ISRAELIS.

3. COMMENT: OCCURS TO US CHAMOUN'S APPROACH TO IRANIANS
IN BEIRUT PROVIDES USEFUL CHANNEL FOR MESSAGES URGING RE-
STRAINT THAT WE MAY WISH IRANIANS TO PASS BACK. APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT'S REPLY QUESTIONS PARA ONE ASAP.
NAAS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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